

¶18. (U) Daniel Ortega has had close relations with numerous international terrorist groups for decades. During the 1980s, he invited international terrorists from Italy, Lebanon, Libya, the Palestinian territories, and Spain to come to Nicaragua to find safe haven and plan future terrorist operations. Many of these persons became Nicaraguan citizens. Since losing power in 1990, Ortega has continued to maintain his terrorist ties, and has publicly admitted receiving money from the government of Libya and other dubious sources for his subsequent presidential campaigns.

¶19. (U) In 1984 Daniel Ortega negotiated a deal with Colombian drug kingpin Pablo Escobar whereby Escobar received refuge for several months in Nicaragua after he had ordered the killing of the Colombian Minister of Justice. At the same time, Escobar's drug trafficking operation received Ortega's approval to land and load airplanes in Nicaragua as they sought to ship cocaine to the United States. In return, Ortega and the FSLN received large cash payments from Escobar. Interior Minister Tomas Borge and his subordinates went so far as to assist Escobar with the loading and unloading of drugs onto his airplanes in Nicaragua. The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) managed to place a hidden camera on one of Escobar's airplanes and obtained film of Escobar and Ministry of the Interior officials loading cocaine onto one of Escobar's planes at Managua's international airport. CBS news later broadcast the film and the entire story of Escobar-Ortega-FSLN collaboration is related in detail in a 2005 book by Astrid Legarda Martinez: *El Verdadero Pablo: Sangre, Traicion y Muerte* (Colombia, Ediciones Dipon).

¶20. (U) FSLN leaders, including Humberto Ortega, have admitted publicly that leaders of the Argentine leftist terrorist group "Los Montoneros" resided in Nicaragua and engaged in military activities with the FSLN for an extended period in 1979-1981. Humberto Ortega admitted that Fernando Vaca Narvaja, the leader of the group, resided in his house in Managua.

¶21. (SBU) Sources: Ortega has publicly admitted many of his terrorist connections, including the fact that he has received elections money from the government of Libya. Many 1980s terrorists still live in Nicaragua and have acquired Nicaraguan citizenship (including at least one prominent member of the Italian Red Brigades), Ortega publicly associated with many of these individuals in Nicaragua throughout the 1980s. The Pablo Escobar footage was filmed June 24, 1984.

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